

Sexuality in 20th Century America
University of Utah

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History/Gender 4630-001
221 CTIHB
Office Hours: by appointment

*When we are loved we are afraid
love will vanish
When we are alone we are afraid
love will never return
And when we speak we are afraid
our words will not be heard
nor welcomed
But when we are silent
we are still afraid
So it is better to speak
remembering
We were never meant to survive.*

*Audre Lorde
"A Litany for Survival"*

In this class we examine the ways Americans have come to understand sexuality and sexual identity and their role in the cultural and political life of the nation. The class begins with readings from psychology about the role of sexuality in evolution. We then read Plato's Symposium, a work from the 4th century BCE that debates the meaning of love and sex in Ancient Greece. I use this text to decenter our contemporary definitions and understandings of sexuality. We will then focus more specifically on the ways the meaning of sexuality changed throughout the 20th century. Paying close attention to the shifting definitions of race, class, masculinity, femininity and sexual identity, we will cover such topics as lynching, the formation of gay and straight identity, disease and medical experimentation, sexuality in the armed forces, gay liberation, domestic violence and incest, birth control and abortion, sex work (prostitution, etc.), the AIDS epidemic, and gay family formation. If you have problems dealing critically with these topics, this is not the class for you. (Seriously people, this class may “challenge” your “core beliefs” so think hard about whether you want to take it. I will not make accommodations for students who find the material offensive.)

Course Requirements:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following breakdown:

Class Participation	20%
5% attendance	
15% quizzes	
Short Response Paper (2-3 pages)	15%
Paper (5-7 pages)	25%
Take Home Midterm	15%
Take Home Final	25%

In this class we will combine lecture and discussion, and as a result meaningful and thoughtful class participation is essential. Breathing oxygen in my presence does not constitute meaningful class participation. I expect you to do the readings for the class, watch the films, come to class on time, and participate in discussion.

In this class you will receive letter grades. Inadequate work will receive an F (E). Weak work (some effort expended, but insufficiently supported or executed) will receive a "D." Average work that meets the minimum requirements of the class will receive a "C." Good work will receive a "B." Only outstanding effort and quality (clear and captivating, insightful and sophisticated, persuasive and error-free) will earn an "A."

Classroom Policies:

No plagiarism or violations of academic integrity will be tolerated in this class. The University outlines its policies at <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>. If I find that any students have violated this code, I will fail them in the class **AND** bring up formal charges against them with the Academic Misconduct Committee. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism and cheating. If you are concerned about what these terms mean, you may come and see me and we can discuss it.

To deter cheating you will be required to submit your papers to the on-line service www.turnitin.com. **Our class ID is 4153881 and our password is hedwig**. Instructions for how to do this are posted on WebCT. Don't worry, it isn't hard.

Beyond adherence to these academic standards of honesty and integrity, everyone must maintain a basic level of maturity, civility, and professionalism. I expect my students to be tolerant and respectful of other people and viewpoints. Reasonable people can disagree without engaging in personal attacks. I want an open and comfortable classroom where questions are encouraged and discussions flow freely.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Films:

Five films have been assigned for this class and they have all been streamed on the library website. You will receive an email with the links and instructions on how to view the films. Those instructions will also be posted on WebCT. These films are required and will be included on quizzes, the midterm and the final. Several of these films are rated R and I cannot make accommodation for students who do not wish to see them. If you cannot watch R-rated films, I suggest you find another class.

Readings:

The books for this course are available at the University Book Store. If you do not feel you can afford to buy all of the books, all of the materials for the class will be on reserve at the Library and you can read them there. **NOT PURCHASING COURSE MATERIALS DOES NOT MEAN YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ THEM.** All the readings for the week are due for Tuesday's class. All of the reserve readings are available on reserve (duh) but I have also posted the pdf's to WebCT.

Electronic or Paper Reserve (marked * in the syllabus)
Dorothy Allison, Bastard out of Carolina
Audre Lorde, Zami: A New Spelling of My Name
Plato, Symposium
Dan Savage, Committment

Week 1: Talking Sex

T Aug 23 Slang
Th Aug 25 Sexual Evolution

Readings:

*Lisa Diamond, "Evolutionary Biology and the Pair Bond Model"
Plato's Symposium, 3-17 (Penguin Classics Edition)

Film: Hedwig and the Angry Inch
Due for Class Tuesday, August 30

Week 2: The Origin of Love

T Aug 30 Before Sexuality: Greek Understandings of Love, Desire and Sex
Th Sep 1 Scientific Racism and Actual Sex Slaves

Readings:

Plato's Symposium, 22-64 (Penguin Classics Edition)
*Edward Baptist, "'Cuffy,' 'Fancy Maids,' and 'One Eyed Men'"
*Fugitive Slave Lewis Clarke, "A Slave Can't Be A Man"

Week 3: Sexuality and the Problem of the Color Line

T Sep 6 Lynching, Sex, and the Problem of the Color Line
Th Sep 8 Tuskegee and Its Legacy

Readings:

*Gail Bederman, "The White Man's Civilization on Trial"
*Susan Lederer, "The Tuskegee Syphilis Study in the Context of American Medicine"
*James Jones, "AIDS: Is It Genocide?"
*George Chauncey, "Fairy as Intermediate Sex,"

Music: Billie Holiday, "Strange Fruit"

Week 4: The Emergence of the Heterosexual/Homosexual Dyad

T Sep 13 Sex without Identity
Th Sep 15 Fairies, Wolves and Trade

Readings:

*Karen Hansen, "'No Kisses Is Like Youes'"
*John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity"
*George Chauncey, "Trade" and "The Forging of Queer Identities"

Week 5: Sex in the Jazz Age

T Sep 20 Slumming
Th Sep 22 The Economics of Heterosexuality

Readings:

*Chad Heap, "The Negro Vogue"

*Elizabeth Clement, "Treating and the New Moral Order"
*Margot Canaday, "Most Fags are Floaters"
Audre Lorde, *Zami*, Prologue, Chapters 1-9
Music: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," Ella Fitzgerald, "Always True to You"

Film: Live Nude Girls Unite!
Due for class on Thursday, September 29

Week 6: Love for Sale

Th Sep 27 Prostitution and the Rise of Sex Work
Th Sep 29 Live Nude Girls Unite!

Readings:

*Elizabeth Clement, "Nudes Feel Pinch"
*Cecile Hoigard, "Inside Prostitution" and "After Prostitution"
*Chester Brown, "Paying for It"
Audre Lorde, *Zami*, Chapters 10-19

**Short Paper due Friday, September 30
in my box in 310 CTIHB by 4 p.m. and to turnitin.com**

Week 7: Planning Parenthood

T Oct 4 Birth Control as Business
Th Oct 6 Selective Breeding and other Eugenic Projects

Readings:

*"Margaret Sanger's Epiphany over Birth Control"
*Jessie Rodrique, "The Black Community and the Birth Control Movement"
*"The Supreme Court Upholds Forced Sterilization"
*Johanna Schoen, "Nothing is Removed"
Audre Lorde, *Zami*, Chapters 20-26

Week 8: Fall Break, Yay!!!

Film: Coming out Under Fire, Due for Class, Tuesday, October 20

Take Home Midterm Due Friday, October 21th to my email

Week 9: Conduct Unbecoming?

T Oct 18 Birth Control, Abortion, and the Culture Wars
Th Oct 20 A Brief History of Gays in the Military

Readings:

* "Getting Caught" from Brett Harvey's *The Fifties*
*Rickie Solinger, "Extreme Danger"
*Andrea Tone, "The Pill in Practice"
*Margaret Talbot, "Red Sex, Blue Sex"
*Margot Canaday, "Building a Straight State"
*Randy Shilts, "What's Fair in Love and War?"
*SLDF, "Comparing the Military's Policy of Racial Segregation to DADT"
Music: Loretta Lynn, "The Pill"

Week 10: The Way We Never Were: Gender and Family in the 1950s

T	Oct 25	Homeward Bound: Cold War Family Ideology
Th	Oct 27	The Sexual Psychopath

Readings:

- *Elaine Tyler May, "Brinksmanship"
- *Regina Kunzel, "White Neurosis, Black Pathology"
- *"Alfred Kinsey Reports on Americans' Sexual Behavior"
- *"US Senate Investigates 'Sex Perverts' in Government, 1950"
- *Tinky Winky Documents
- *Estelle Freedman, "Uncontrolled Desires,"
Dorothy Allison, Bastard out of Carolina, Chapters 1-8
- Music:** The Shirelles, "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow"
- Internet:** This American Life, "Double Lives," #10, 2/14/97

Film: Southern Comfort

Due for class on Tuesday, November 3

Week 11: Gendering Bending

T	Nov 1	Butch/Femme Roles as Politics in the 1950s
Th	Nov 3	Trans America

Readings:

- *John Howard, Excerpt from "Norms and Laws"
- *Elizabeth Kennedy, "We're Going to Be Legends"
- *Joanne Meyerowitz, "Sex Change and the Popular Press"
- *Sally Hines, "Intimate Transitions"
- Dorothy Allison, Bastard out of Carolina, Chapters 9-14
- Music:** The Kinks, "Lola," Lou Reed, "Walk on the Wild Side," Coyote Grace, "Daughterson"

Week 12: Domestic Violence and Incest

T	Nov 8	Changing Understandings of Domestic Violence
Th	Nov 10	Discussion of <u>Bastard out of Carolina</u>

Readings:

- *Lynn Sacco, "Incest in the 20th Century," and "Epilogue"
- *Anne Enke, "Finding the Limits of Women's Autonomy"
- *Dorothy Allison, "Shotgun Strategies"
- Dorothy Allison, Bastard out of Carolina, finish
- Music:** Tracy Chapman, "Behind the Wall," Dar Williams, "A Flinty Kind of Woman"

Film: The Times of Harvey Milk

Due for class on Thursday, November 17

Week 13: Gay Lib at the YMCA and Other Venues

T	Nov 15	Stonewall
Th	Nov 17	Anita Bryant and the Importance of Drinking Orange Juice

Readings:

- *Allan Berube, "Intellectual Desires"

*Terence Kissack, "Freaking Fag Revolutionaries"
Audre Lorde, Zami, finish
Dan Savage, The Commitment, Part I
Music: Village People, "YMCA," and "Go West,"
Bronski Beat, "Smalltown Boy"

Optional Drafts for Paper 2 Due—Friday, November 19th

Week 14: AIDS and the Missing Generation

T Nov 22 Silence Equals Death
Th Nov 24 **THANKSGIVING--YAY!**

Readings:

*Jennifer Brier, "Locating Lesbian and Feminist Responses to AIDS"
Walt Odets, "Life in the Shadow"
*Amy Hoffman, Excerpts from Hospital Time
Dan Savage, The Commitment, Part II
Music: Zero Patience, "Control"

Week 15: Facing the Pandemic

T Nov 29 Going Home or Staying Home?: Gay, AIDS and Death
Th Dec 1 AIDS in the Global Perspective

Readings:

*Kevin Bentley, "My Clementina"
*Michael Specter, "The Vaccine"
*Michael Specter, "The Denialists"
*Benoit Denizet-Lewis, "Double Lives on the Down Low"
Dan Savage, The Commitment, Part III
Music: Olivier Mtukudzi, "Todii" ("What Shall We Do?")

Week 16—Are the Kids Alright?

T Dec 6 The Gaybee Boom
Th Dec 8 A Brief History of Marriage in America

Readings:

*Judith Stacy, "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?"
*Eve Sedgwick, "How to Bring Your Kids Up Gay"
*Sharon Rostosky, et al. "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Individuals' Psychological Reactions to Amendments Denying Access to Civil Marriage"
*Lisa Duggan, "What's Right with Utah"
Dan Savage, The Commitment, finish
Internet/Radio: This American Life, "Sissies" Episode 46, 12/13/1996
Music: Patty Griffin, "Tony," Catie Curtis, "Radical," Dar Williams, "The Christians and the Pagans"

Paper 2 due Friday, December 9
To my email by 4 p.m. and to turnitin.com

****Take Home Final Exam Due, Friday, December 16th To My Email****

